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**ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY KATHLEEN SERVATIUS RECEIVES RECOGNITION
AT 22ND ANNUAL DIRECTOR'S AWARD CEREMONY IN WASHINGTON DC**

SACRAMENTO—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that the Department of Justice held its 22nd annual Executive Office for United States Attorneys Director's Awards Ceremony today, during which 123 award recipients were recognized for their excellence in law enforcement. Recipients included Assistant United States Attorneys, litigation and information technology support personnel, and others who have made outstanding contributions in federal, state, and local law enforcement.

Kathleen A. Servatius, Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of California, received the prestigious award, Superior Performance as an Assistant United States Attorney, for her outstanding contributions to the prosecution and dismantling of large-scale methamphetamine manufacturing and distributing organizations in California's Central Valley. Since joining the United States Attorney's Office, in Fresno, in October 1990, Ms. Servatius led or participated in approximately 65 methamphetamine related investigations, including 24 Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) designated investigations after her assignment to OCDETF in 1997. These investigations resulted in approximately 56 indictments involving 348 defendants and more than 20 Title III wire intercept orders. Several leaders of these organizations received life terms of imprisonment and large amounts of assets were forfeited to the United States, including one drug king-pin's California Lottery winnings. In addition, in 1997, Ms. Servatius helped organize and instructed at one of the first methamphetamine manufacturing instructional courses for department attorneys and, since the formation of the Central Valley High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, has provided legal instruction to its members.

"Today we honor some of our best and brightest, some of our most talented and most dedicated," said Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales. "The men and women we honor today work tirelessly to protect the American people and to safeguard the promise of justice made to every generation. Their efforts are vital to the Justice Department and to our Nation, and I thank them for their service and the sacrifices they make everyday."

While terrorism remains the top priority of the Department of Justice, the Department has continued its mission to enforce all of our nation's laws, including prosecuting civil rights violations, gang violence and drug crimes, as well as representing our client agencies,

conducting civil enforcement, and assisting victims of crime. Crime has dropped to a 30-year low as the Department has employed tough tools and tough penalties against criminals who have victimized the innocent. Between 2000 and 2004, federal gun prosecutions increased 76 percent and the violent crime rate decreased 23 percent.

"The scourge of methamphetamine continues to be one of the great law enforcement challenges in the Central Valley. I am incredibly proud to have had one of our Assistant United States Attorneys, who has dedicated much of her distinguished career to combating methamphetamine, has now been recognized by the highest echelons of the Justice Department. Kathy Servatius is a model public servant, dedicated to making our region safer for all citizens," said United States Attorney Scott.

The Executive Office for United States Attorneys provides oversight, general executive assistance, and direction to the 94 United States Attorneys' offices around the country.

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